



REMARKS

The Examiner has issued an Official Action requiring the election of a species. Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement.

However to expedite prosecution applicants elect a single component system. Claims 1 and 2 have been amended accordingly.

Applicants preserve all rights to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected claims.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance and favorable consideration is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Claim 1 (Amended). A single step process for [the] synthesis of nanoparticles of phase pure ceramic oxides of a single [or a multi-]component system comprising one [or more] type of metal [ions] ion, said process comprising,

- [(e)](a) preparing a solution containing [all] the [required] metal ions in stoichiometric ratio by dissolving their [respective] soluble salts in an organic solvent or in water,
- [(f)](b) preparing a precursor by complexing the metal ions with a complexing agent while keeping the ratio of the charges of the acid to the charges of the metal ions as unity;
- [(g)](c) adjusting the nitrate/ammonia content in the system; and
- [(h)](d) heating the system from room temperature to 250-300°C.

Claim 2 (Amended). A process as claimed in claim 1 wherein the desired oxide contains [(a)] one cation selected from the group comprising of Al_2O_3 , ZrO_2 , TiO_2 , HfO_2 , MgO , and SiO_2 , [(b) two cations of the general formula ABO_3 , wherein A is Si, Al, Y or Lanthanides, B is Ba, Sr, Ca, Mg or Fe; with general formula AlM_2O_5 where M = Ti, Zr or Hf; or with general formula Al_2NO_4 , where N=Mg, Ca, Sr, Ba Zn, (c) three cations with the general formula $\text{A}(\text{B}_{0.5}\text{B}'_{0.5})\text{O}_6$ or $\text{A}_2(\text{BB}')\text{O}_6$, where A is Ba, Sr, Ca or Mg, B is Zr, Hf, Sb or Sn, B' is Al, Y or Lanthanides, (d) four cations with general formula $(\text{AA}')(\text{BB}')\text{O}_6$, where A and A' are Ba, Sr, Ca or Mg, B is Zr, Hf, Sb or Sn, B' is Al, Y or Lanthanides].

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